## JOURNAL

OF

## THE ASIATIC SOCIETY.

No. 50.—February, 1836.

I.—Account of Rumbôwe, one of the States in the Interior of Malacca.

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Rumbówe has generally been accounted by the Portuguese and Dutch Governments at Malacca as the principal of the states in the interior; but their ideas, like our own, until of late years, of the relative situation of these states, both political and geograpical, appear to have been very erroneous. At the present time, indeed, much interesting matter remains in obscurity, and must remain until the peninsula has been more thoroughly explored.

These notions of the superiority of Rumbówe over the sister state arose probably from the circumstances of its proximity to, and early connexion with, Naning; and from that of its capital being the crowning place of the deputed sovereign from Menangkábówe.

Tradition ascribes its name to a large Marabówe tree, anciently growing near its western frontier, on one of the banks of the Marabówe stream, not far from its embouchement into the Rumbówe branch of the Lingie river.

There was a small hamlet here, when I visited the place in 1832, consisting of four or five Malay houses. The word *Marabówe* is supposed to have been corrupted into *Rumbówe*.

The area of Rumbówe proper, not including the dependencies, is said not to be quite so spacious as that of Naning. The nearest point of its frontier is distant about 25 miles N. W. from the town of Malacca.

Boundaries.—It is bounded towards the N. E. by Sriminanti and Sungie Ujong; towards the south, by part of Naning and Johole; to the west, by part of Naning and Salengore, and to the east, by part of Sriminanti and Johole.

The boundary marks with Sriminanti are the mountains of Lépat, Cájang, and Gúnong tájoh; with Sángie Ujong, Búkit Augim, part of the right branch of the Lingie river, and Parentian tingih; with Naning\*; with Johóle, the hill of Búkit Pábeí; and with Salangore, the Lingie river.

Rumbówe contains two divisions, viz. Rumbówe  $Ul\acute{u}$  and Rumbówe  $Il\acute{u}r$ ; each under its four  $S\acute{u}k\acute{u}s$ , who are all subject to the control of one  $Pangh\acute{u}l\acute{u}$ .

The Lingie river forms the channel of communication, by water, of Rumbówe with the straits of Malacca, into which it falls about eight miles to the eastward of Cape Rachádo. This river is about 450 yards broad, and takes a north-by-easterly course into the interior, to the distance of about six miles, when it divides into two branches. The one to the left, called Battang Pennar, goes up to Lingie, and the Súngie Ujong tin mines, taking a N. W. by N. course; and the one to the right, called Battang Penágie, takes a N. E. by E. course, to Bander, in Rumbówe. It has its rise among the mountains of this state. The three principal posts of Rumbówe are situated on the banks of Battang Penágie; viz. Sempong, six miles from the mouth at the point of the river's bifurcation; Padás, on the right bank, five or six miles further up; and Bander, about eight miles beyond Padás.

The river, up to Sempong, is navigable for vessels of 125 tons, ranging from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 fathoms, high-water, and vessels of nine tons may pass up, without much difficulty, to Padás; and to Lingie, on the other branch.

In entering the mouth of the river care must be taken to avoid the eastern bank, in consequence of hidden rocks, which run off to sea. The channel near the western bank is deep and safe.

Regarding Padás, the following remarks are extracted from some notes taken during a trip up the river in 1833. Two or three miles in advance of Ramoan China Kechil, on the right bank of the river, on the summit of a small hill commanding it, is Rája Ali's (the Iang de pertúan Besár) stockaded house. The place is named Padás, from a small stream that flows into the river about a quarter of a mile nearer Sempong. The river, several hundred yards above and below Padás, had been partially blocked up by large trees felled completely across. In one place we passed through a formidable chevaux de frise of pointed stakes, bound together, and running from bank to bank.

On this part of the river the stockade bears most: it is most judiciously placed to annoy an enemy passing up with so many obstacles in his course. We contrived to get over them with consi-

<sup>\*</sup> See paper on Naning, vol. IV. 297.

derable difficulty, although the trees had since been cut in two, and broken down. At high-water, they might however be readily passed. The river was blockaded in this fashion during the Naning disturbances, and the engineer on this occasion was no other than our friend in the boat, the Laks-amána of Rumbówe. Sempong, as before stated, is situated at the point of the river's bifurcation. In 1833, it consisted only of two or three huts; in the foremost of which was a small battery, consisting of seven swivels, and an iron 3-pr. of sufficient range to command both branches of the river. It is the place selected by the Rumbówe chiefs to levy the duty on the tin passing down from Súngie Ujong.

At the close of 1833, and commencement of 1834, many fugitives settled here, in consequence of the disturbances at *Lingie*, together with a small colony from Sumatra, under a *Panglima* named *Kammer*. The place is now strongly stockaded by the *Iang de pertuan Múda* Sayad Saban, by whom every encouragement is held out to settlers.

Population.—Rumbówe, including Kroh and Tamping, contains about 9,000 inhabitants. The principal places are Bander, Senpong, Chembong, Kaling, and Battu Ampar. Chembong, with its environs, is said to contain about 600 houses, and drives a petty trade in timber, dammer, and wax, which are bartered for opium, cloths, iron utensils, and tobacco.

Chembong is the residence of the Panghúlú of Rumbówe; Bander, Padás, and Sempong those of the Iang de pertúans.

Besides Malays are several aboriginal tribes inhabiting the steeps of the mountains, and the forests, who subsist principally by hunting. The natives give them the general appellation of *Orang Benúa*, people of the soil or country.

They are subdivided into several tribes: among the most remarkable of which are the *Udái*, *Sakkye*, *Jakún*, and *Rayet Utan*. I have seen several specimens of the two last, but do not perceive any material dissimilarity between them, save that the latter, by enjoying freer intercourse with the Malays, have become more civilized; at least, as far as a shew of dress and ornaments is implicated.

They differ much from the descriptions given of the Semang in the interior of Quedah, and the thick-lipped, woolly-haired Papúan. Their features are of the Malay caste; their hair sometimes straight, like that of the generality of Asiatics, but more frequently curling; at the same time, very different from the frizzly locks of the African.

Their stature is shorter, but they do not differ much in complexion from the Malay.

The Malays entertain a high estimation of the skill of those singular tribes in medicine, and the knowledge of the virtues of herbs, roots,

plants, &c. investing their sages, Púyongs, even with supernatural powers, such as the Tújoh Besawye, &c.

These tribes are to be found over the whole of the interior of this part of the peninsula, particularly in Ulá Colang, Sángie Ujong, Johóle, Jompóle, Jellabu, Ulá Máar, and Segámet. They are skilled in the composition of the celebrated upas poison, with which they tip the points of their arrows. The Sámpitan, a long tube, through which the poisoned darts are blown, and a spear, are their favorite weapons. The cloth that encircles their loins is made from the fibrous bark of the Terrap tree.

The influence of their Botins, or chiefs over the election of the Panghúlú of Súngie Ujong, has been mentioned. In Johóle, they exert a similar power. It may be also remarked here, that in Rumbówe there are two distinctions of the high Malayan tribe called Bidoánda, viz. Bódoánda Jakún, and Bódoánda Jawa. The Panghúlás of all these states must necessarily be of one of these two tribes.

Government.—Rumbówe was formerly under the immediate sway of its Panghúlú and Ampat Súkú; but of latter days, the Iang de pertúan Múda claims equal, if not superior power to the Panghúlú.

The first chief who assumed the title of Iang de pertúan Múda of Rumbówe was Rája Assil, the son of the second Menangkábówe prince Rája Adil; he was appointed by the then Iang de pertúan Besár (his son-in-law Rúja Itam), with the concurrence of the Panghálús of the four states; and it is stated, had assigned to him, as a subsistence, two-sixths of the duty levied on the tin passing down the river from Súngie Ujong, (the duty was then 2 dls. per bhar,) and the revenues of the districts of Kroh and Tampin, near the foot of the mountain of that name.

In 1812, Assil was driven out of Rumbówe, as previously mentioned, by the Panghúlú and Súkús, assisted by Rája Ali; and died in Naning in 1814 or 15. Rája Ali supplanted him; but, being elected as Iang de-pertúan Besár in 1832, was succeeded in the Múdaship by his son-in-law, the present chief, Sayad Saban.

This office being an innovation on ancient usage is, consequently, secretly disliked by the Malays, especially where its privileges are so ill defined and unsettled; and one in which right would appear synonymous with might.

Another change within the last few years has taken place in the constitution of this state; instead of the council of the Ampat, or four, Súkús, it consists now of eight, or the Súkú Iang de-lápan; who, with the Panghúlú, now form a deliberative body, like the Archons of Athens, of nine.

The Panghúlú is alternately elected from the two tribes, Bódoinda Jakún and Bódoánda Jawa. The following circumstances, according to tradition, led to this custom:

"When the king of Johore appointed nine Panghúlús over the nine Negris in the interior of Malacca, the heads of the leading tribes in Rumbówe, viz. those of the Bódoánda Jakún and Jawa, disputed regarding the superiority of their respective claims to the honor. His Highness of Johore, after due deliberation, came to the decision that the selection of a Panghúlú should not be made from one tribe exclusively, but that each should have the privilege alternately."

This judgment, we are assured, gave entire satisfaction, and at all events, seems to have been adhered to in subsequent elections.

It must not be omitted here to state, that the title of Lélah Máhárája was given by the king to the Panghúlús of the tribe Bódoánda Jakún, and that of Sédia Rája to those of the Bódoánda Jawa; with the exception of this custom, the office of Panghúlú is hereditary, agreeably to the law of Perpáti Sabútang prevailing in Menangkábówe, and provided the heir be not insane or an imbecile. The present Panghúlú is of the tribe Bódoánda Jakún, he succeeded his predecessor Bahágo, of the tribe Bódoánda Jawa, in 1819.

Súkús.—Under the Panghálú are the eight Súkús, or heads of the tribes, into which the population of Rumbówe is divided; and who act as their representatives in councils of state, where like the former Súkús of Naning and Súngie Ujong, they possess considerable influence. Nothing of any public importance can be agreed on without their concurrence; and their unanimous vote on disputed points bears down that of the Panghálú. The Iang de-pertúan Besár and Múda always exert more or less influence over their councils. The signature of the Súkús is necessary to the ratification of any treaty, or other similar public document.

Formerly there were only four Súkús who had share in the councils, viz. those of  $Rumbówe\ Ilir$ ; but latterly those of  $Rumbówe\ Ulú$  have been admitted, as alluded to above. This change was effected by the policy of the two  $Iang\ de-pertúans$ , in order to lessen the influence of the Panghúlú and former Súkús, and to increase their own.

The names of the tribes and titles of the individuals who represent them are as follow:

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Rumbówe Ilír.
Tribes. Heads of tribes.
Báttu Ampar, .... Gompar Mahárája.
Paya Kúmba Barrat, ... Méra Bongsa.
Mancal, .... Sangsúra Páhláwan.
Tiga Néník, .... Bongsa de Bálang.

Rumbówe Ulú.
Tribes. Heads of Tribes.
Paya Kúmba Dárrat, ... Sáma Rája.
Báttu Bállang, .... Andika.
Sa Melongang, .... Mendalíka.
Sri Lummah, .... Senda Mahárája.
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To this list may be added the names of four inferior tribes, which

being scanty in number, and most of them of foreign origin, are represented by the heads of the more important tribes, viz. Tiga, Battu, Anak Malacca, Anak Achi, (children of Malacca and Achin,) and Tannah Dattar. The Bódoánda tribes are represented by the Panghúlás.

Malays, strangers to Rumbówe, while residing there, are amenable to the head of the tribe to which they belong. Settlers are immediately classed in their respective tribes. Those from Menangkábówe generally enter that of Búttu Ampar, which is the principal of the five tribes that originally emigrated from Menangkábowe; viz. those of Muncal, Búttu Ballang, Tiga Búttu, and Tannah Dattar.

A man marrying into another tribe becomes a member of that of the woman, as also the children.

Some of the tribes have peculiar privileges; it is said that the Bódoándas, though guilty of the highest crimes, are exempt from capital punishment; banishment and fines being the only penalty to which they are liable. The circumstance of the Panghúlús of the independant states being necessarily Bódoándas has already been adverted to\*.

Although the Malays, like the Greeks and Romans, entertain the highest veneration for old age, still the claims of descent supersede those conferred by years, particularly with regard to the heads of tribes, who have precedence in the councils of the state, conformably to the rank of the tribe they represent. An instance of this, and the power sometimes exercised by the Súkús in election, fell under my own observation. At Súngie Sipát, on the frontier of Rumbówe, in 1833. among the assembly of Malay chiefs there, I observed a boy, whose dress and weapons betokened some rank, and to whom a considerable degree of deference was shewn by the natives. On inquiring, I found him to be the head of the principal tribe, and that, although a younger brother, he had been elected by the Súkús as the head of his tribe or clan, in consequence of his elder brother's imbecility. This boy affixed his name, or rather his mark, (for neither he nor any of his seven compeers could write,) immediately after the Panghulu of Rumbowe. before the rest of the Súkús, some of whom were venerable old men. and grown grey in office.

Mantris.—There are two Mantris in Rumbówe, viz. Suroн Rája, and Andika Mantri, both of the tribe Bódoúnda Jawa.

Their functions are ill defined, but are principally, I believe, to assist the chiefs with their advice.

<sup>\*</sup> The division of the people of these states into tribes, some of which bear the names of places in Menangkábówe, is a strong additional proof of their origin.

They have no vote in councils, and their influence must be almost entirely personal.

Laksámana.—The Laksámanas are also two, Passar and Khatib. The navigation of the river and maritime matters are entrusted to these officers.

Panglimas.—The war-chiefs, or Panglimas, are four in number, viz. two Panglima Prangs, Pandika Rája, and Panglima Dallam. Their duties are similar to those of the former Panglimas of Naning.

Pertama.—There is another officer, appointed by the Iang de pertuan Besar, whose functions, fortunately for the liege subjects of Rumbówe, are seldom called into exercise. This is the Pertama, or executioner. The modes of putting criminals to death are generally confined to the Panchong and Salang and Salang.

The former is decapitation: the latter has been already described. Passing up the Rumbówe river, on some high ground on the left bank between Sempong and Pádas, a leafless, blighted tree was pointed out to me by one of the Laksámanas who stated the foot of it to be the place where criminals, subjects of Rumbówe, were put to death by Sálang \*\*...\*

Religion.—The inhabitants of Rumb'owe, like those of the other states of the interior, with the exception of the aborigines, profess the tenets of Isl'am. They are divided into seven M'ukuns, or parishes, to each of which is attached a mosque, with distinct establishments of priests, as in Naning.

A Kázi named Ha'ji Hashim Sri Lummah presides over the whole. The religious customs, fasts, and festivals are similar to those observed in *Naning*.

Visit to Rumbówe.—As Rumbówe has seldom been penetrated by Europeans, the following memoranda, from my note book, of a visit paid to the chiefs at its capital, Bander, in 1832, by the then Governor of the Straits, the Honorable Mr. Ibbetson, and Brigadier Wilson, C. B. may not perhaps be wholly devoid of interest.

Early on the morning of the 21st October, I joined from camp at Alorgajeh, the Governor's suite at Tabu, the principal village of Naning, and late the residence of the ex-Panghúlú DHOLL SAYAD.

After breakfasting under one of the thatched quarters that had escaped the pioneer's axe and brand on the late evacuation of this outpost, the party started on horseback along a foot-path, through a wooded country with the Rumbówe hills on the right, to Chirána pútih, the last village of Naning. This was formerly a populous place. And the residence of the ex-Panghúlú's sons, but we found it now entirely deserted, and its houses falling into rapid decay and ruin. Here it was

stated that DHOLL SAYAD had a manufactory for gun-powder during his late resistance to the Company's troops.

Leaving Chirána pútih to the left, the path abruptly turns to the right, over or rather through a muddy sawah, and leads towards the foot of Gúnong Tampin. Along the skirt of this mountain, through a dense forest, the party had to travel in Indian file, the narrow foot-path being in several places blocked up by large forest trees lying across to Qabar Feringí, or the Frank's grave, which is a mere mound in the jungle. This is one of the boundary marks of the Rumbówe and Naning territories, and is traditionally said to be the grave of a Portuguese officer, slain by the natives in one of those frequent skirmishes which took place between the followers of the gallant Albuquerque and the "rebellious Menangkábówes." The path to Cóndóng, from Qabar Feringí, lay through the jungle at the foot of the Rumbówe range, and gradually improved as we approached that village. Cóndóng is a populous hamlet, the first in the Rumbówe side of the boundary line, and is situated at the foot of the mountain of Gunong Rumbówe, on whose steep sides, amidst luxuriant forests, appeared singular patches of partially cleared ground, and a few rude huts, the habitation of the lords of the woods and rocks, None of their sylvan eminences however, nor their attendant Hamadryades, condescended to favor the party with their appearance.

From Cóndóng to Pádang Lóko, the forest decreased in size and denseness, and here and there were traces of clearing and cultivation. A few small verdant patches, not deserving the name of plains, and two or three rivulets, were passed through. The distance from Cóndóng to Pádang Lóko is about three miles.

From Pádang Lóko to Ligon, the road is bad, passing for the most part over heavy rice-grounds. The cultivation increased progressively as the belt of forest, the natural boundary between Naning and Rumbówe, was left behind, until we reached the banks of the Rumbówe river at Lágon. This stream was just fordable; its waters muddy, and evidently swoln by the rains.

After passing by a miserable path over a very extensive and well cultivated sheet of rice-ground, where the horses were frequently up to the saddle flaps in mud, fording another stream, and crossing a broad swampy plain, from the grassy tufts of which flew the startled lapwing and whistling plover, the cavalcade halted before the mud fort of Bander. From its gate issued a motley crowd of well-dressed Malays, brandishing spears, muskets, pemurasses, (a sort of blunderbuss,) and umbrellas of state, white and yellow, headed by the Múda of Rumbówe, and one of the sons of the Iang de pertúan Besúr, Rája Ali.

The Governor, and Brigadier Wilson, were received by these chiefs with every demonstration of welcome and respect, conducted into the fort, and ushered by Rája Ali into a large temporary building, apparently erected for the occasion, opposite the Rája's primitive palace of thatch.

A salute from the fort jinjals was then fired, much to the discomfiture of one of the pieces, which, possibly from not being accustomed to powder, burst into divers rust-incrusted fragments.

Refreshments were served in, on a large flat tray; they consisted principally of dried fruits, dates, conserves, and sweetmeats, in which, as usual, sugar and oil were manifestly predominant. These were placed on small China dishes, and a number of minute cups of the same material, filled with the steaming infusion of Souchong, fresh from China, sans sucre et sans lait, were warmly pressed upon us.

In the evening, Rája Ali introduced two antique ladies, dressed with almost more than Spartan simplicity. The one his mother, the Princess Dowager Tuánku Putih, and the other, his venerated kinswoman, his aunt. These ogresses of high degree would have rivalled in flow of language and exuberance of gesticulation the most vivacious dowagers, date 1770, Madame du Deffand always excepted.

TUÁNKU PUTIH is represented to be a woman of strong masculine mind, and to have considerable influence over her son Rája Ali.

The fort of Bander consists of low mud walls, now covered with grass, inclosing a space of ground about 80 yards square.

Around and outside of the walls runs a strong and high palisade. Six high cavaliers of wood, roofed in with atap, overlook the faces of the work. On each of their platforms two iron guns are mounted, except on that over the gate-way, where there is a serviceable brass gun, bearing the mark of the Dutch East India Company; the date 1756, A. D. and the maker's name, Peter Seest.

Besides the 12 guns in the cavaliers, were 18 or 20 jinjals lying about the parapets. The houses of the Rája and his personal attendants are within the area comprised by the fort walls.

After passing the night on mattresses and pillows, covered with dirty red silk, embroidered in gold, and which had evidently been abstracted from the Zenána, the party left Bander early on the following morning.

The Governor and Brigadier Wilson proceeded en route to Malacca viâ *Pádas* and the *Lingie* river. Lieut. Balfour, of the Madras Artillery, and myself, returned by *Brissú*, to camp, which we reached the same evening.

SAYAD SÁBAN, the present Iang de pertúan Múda of Rumbówe, is the son of an Arab named SAYAD IBRAHIM by his concubine Sri Kamis, a Malay slave girl, a Khána-záda of Zain-ud-Din, formerly Capitan Maláyu in Malacca. He is a native of Chembong in Rumbówe, whither his father, a rigid zealot, had proceeded to promulgate and expound the tenets of the Korán.

His son, Sayad Sában, principally resided in Rumbówe, but occasionally at Malacca. Being naturally ambitious, he early sought to connect himself by marriage with the ruling families in Rumbówe, and Siac, in Sumatra. He first married a daughter of the Iang de pertúan Múda of Jállabu, Rája Sabun, a son of the second Menangkábówe prince, Rája Adil. He then crossed the straits, and obtained the hand of one of the Siac chief's daughters. His next matrimonial connexions were with Rája Ali's family.

SAYAD SÁBAN is young, active, and intriguing; but at present well disposed to the British Government. Without the bigotry of his father he entertains a thorough contempt for the apathetic opium-eating Malay chiefs, his colleagues in power. He has a taste for war, and proved of great service in placing his father-in-law, Rája Ali, over the heads of his competitors. His activity both for and against the troops in the *Naning* expeditions are well known.

By his own talents and address, the religious influence of his father, and from his Arab extraction, a circumstance to which the Malays invariably pay great deference and respect, and his high connexions, in the securing of which he has shewn great tact and forethought, this adventurer has risen to the *Muda*-ship of *Rumbówe*, and is now aspiring to the entire sovereignty of the states in the interior.

Bennie, the present Panghálú of Rumbówe, is an elderly, grave person, with an unpleasing cast of features purely Malayan. He is at heart inimical to the claims of the Múda and Rája Ali. During the disturbances at Lingie, in 1833, he shamefully deserted his stockade, leaving it with several guns, and a quantity of ammunition, in the hands of the vassal chief Kátas; not without being strongly suspected of having received a considerable bribe for this piece of treachery. He assisted the ex-Panghálú of Naning during the time he was in arms against Government. Bennie is addicted to opium-eating, and like other Malays of this class, is not, as experience has shewn, proof against the temptations of a bribe coming in the shape of this fascinating drug.

Among the Súkús, few are men of any talent or worthy of any particular notice. Раккат, an aspirant to the Panghúlú-ship, and Suroн

Rája, one of the *Mantris*, are much looked up to by the Malays, with whom their opinions and councils have considerable influence.

I had an opportunity of hearing a very long improviso speech from the latter of these Malayan Ciceros, at Súngie Sipat, on the boundary question. His position, unlike that of European orators, was a squatting one, on his hams, with the knees pliantly folded in front. The style of his address, like that of the generality of Asiatics, was grave and pompous; but the flow of his words easy and unbroken, except by a few little attentions bestowed on his betel-pounder (Gobik), by which his right-hand was kept in almost continual motion.

The speech, however, was so long, that the Panghálú of Rumbówe was fairly snoring before the customary Ah, bagítu lah! announced the finale of the effusion. Touching the gift of eloquence, I have observed that the Malays of the interior have generally a better and freer manner of expressing themselves than those of the coast; the language in which they clothe their sentiments is far more figurative, and full of metaphors, drawn from natural objects, and cannot fail to strike the hearer as highly pleasing and simply poetical. Their popular traditions are seldom put to writing, being committed to memory by some of their elders, and sometimes by old Malay ladies of rank, who are regarded by the simple natives, much in the light of a casket containing a valuable gem. Many of their customs are singular and peculiar, and deserving of more attention than has hitherto been paid them.

II.—Quotations from Original Sanscrit Authorities in proof and illustration of Mr. Hodgson's Sketch of Buddhism.

[Continued from page 38.]

## QUOTATIONS.

The Swábhávika Doctrine.

- 1. All things are governed or perfected by Swabháva\*: I too am governed by Swabháva. (Ashta Sahasrika.)
- 2. It is proper for the worshipper at the time of worship to reflect thus: I am Nirlipt†, and the object of my worship is Nirlipt; I am that God (Iswara) to whom I address myself. Thus meditating, the worshipper should make puja to all the celestials: for example, to Vajra Satwa Buddha, let him pay his adorations, first, by recollecting that all things with their Vija mantras came from Swabháva in this or-

<sup>\*</sup> Swa, own, and bháva, nature. Idiosyncrasis.

<sup>+</sup> Intact and intangible, independent.